

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

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TAGS: ENGR, OECD

SUBJECT: DUTCH REACTIONS TO U. S. ENERGY STATEMENTS;
TREATMENT OF ENERGY IN OECD MINISTERIAL

REF: PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE, APRIL 18; UNDER
SECRETARY CASEY'S STATEMENT TO SENATE COMMIT-
TEE, MAY 1; OECD PARIS 12118

SUMMARY

WE DISCUSSED ENERGY MESSAGE, UNDERSEC STATEMENT, AND PROS-
PECTS FOR ENERGY DISCUSSION AT OECD MINISTERIAL WITH
WANSINK, DIR. GEN. ENERGY, AND DEPUTY DIR. GEN. VAN RHIJN
MAY 9. THEIR COMMENTS REFLECTED STRONG SUPPORT FOR INT-
TERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION SHORT OF CONCERTED ACTION
AGAINST OPEC, AND APPRECIATION OF POSITION TAKEN BY
PRESIDENT AND UNDER SEC. IDEA OF U. S. COAL EXPORTS TO
REDUCE DEMAND FOR OIL WAS BROUGHT UP. WANSINK SAYS
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MINISTERIAL SHOULD DISCUSS ENERGY BUT LIMIT DISCUSSION TO GENERAL TERMS WITH OBJECT OF GIVING IT PRIORITY FOR WORK BY COMMITTEES. END SUMMARY.

1. REFLECTING PREVIOUS COMMENTS, WANSINK SAID HE WAS RELIEVED AND PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT HAD SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATION IN HIS ENERGY MESSAGE, SINCE TO IGNORE THIS SUBJECT WOULD HAVE GIVEN GREEN LIGHT TO DIVISION OF MARKET AND DISASTROUS COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES. HE FELT HOWEVER, THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN REGRETTABLY DOWNPLAYED BY BRIEF ATTENTION PAID TO IT ONLY AT END OF MESSAGE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGEING THAT MESSAGE WAS PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, HE OPINED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL TO PLAY SUBJECT UP IN ORDER TO IMPRESS ON AMERICAN PUBLIC THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

2. WANSINK FELT, ON OTHER HAND, THAT UNDERSEC CASEY HAD IN EFFECT RETRIEVED THE BALL BY HIS TREATMENT OF COOPERATION QUESTION. HE WELCOMED STRONG TERMS USED BY UNDERSEC (E. G. " BALKANIZATION OF OIL MARKET") AND DEPTH OF HIS DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS AND ALTERNATIVES. HE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED RECOGNITION BY BOTH PRESIDENT AND UNDERSEC OF ROLE OECD ALREADY PLAYING IN COOPERATION FIELD. HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED POSITION TAKEN BY BOTH AGAINST ADOPTION OF ANTI- OPEC POLICIES BY COOPERATING CONSUMER GOVERNMENTS.

3. VAN RHIJN BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF IMPORTANCE OF U. S. COAL SUPPLY NOT ONLY FOR DOMESTIC USE BUT ALSO FOR POSSIBLE EXPORT TO EUROPE TO HELP RELIEVE OIL DEMAND. THIS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO EUROPEAN USE OF COKING COAL, OF WHICH U. S. IS ALREADY MAIN SUPPLIER. HE SUGGESTED THAT THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPING U. S. COAL MINES WITH EXPORT AS WELL AS DOMESTIC USE IN MIND. (LAST DUTCH COAL MINE WILL CLOSE AT END THIS YEAR OWING TO HIGHLY INEFFICIENT PRODUCTION CONDITIONS).

4. RE OECD MINISTERIAL, WANSINK CONSIDERED IT NOT ONLY HELPFUL BUT NECESSARY TO HAVE ENERGY ON AGENDA; TO BE SILENT ON SUCH PERVASIVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE DANGEROUSLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY. MINISTERIAL SHOULD NOT GET INTO SPECIFICS, HOWEVER, SINCE PREPARATIONS NEEDED FROM OIL COMMITTEE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE AND UNPREPARED POSITIONS OR DECISIONS COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE COMMON INTERESTS. WANSINK HOPED THAT GENERAL DISCUSSION IN MINISTERIAL WOULD RESULT IN AND BE CONFINED TO FOLLOWING:

A) PUT OECD ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION;
B) STIMULATE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES -- OIL, ENERGY,
POSSIBLY TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT-- TO GET BUSY ON
COOPERATIVE PLANS;
C) ATTACH APPROPRIATE PRIORITY TO ENERGY QUESTION,
POSSIBLY LEADING TO STRENGTHENED SECRETARIAT SERVICES
FOR OIL AND ENERGY COMMITTEES; AND
D) CLEARLY OPPOSE ANY ANTI- OPEC POSITIONS.
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